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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## *Memorandum*



### THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM

Information as of 1600  
29 June 1966

State Department review completed

PREPARED FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
FURTHER DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION  
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HIGHLIGHTS

US pilots report that extensive damage was done to the Hanoi and Haiphong POL storage facilities in the 29 June strike. One US aircraft was downed and one North Vietnamese MIG was shot down by US fighters. Communist propaganda reaction thus far has been routinely critical of the US action.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam: A convoy of South Vietnamese Marines was ambushed north of Hue today and in the ensuing battle 50 South Vietnamese were killed and 84 wounded; a total of 71 Viet Cong were killed (Para. 1). Ten Americans participating in Operation YORKTOWN were killed in an engagement with a Communist force in southern Long Khanh Province today (Para. 2). A US patrol was overrun by a Communist force 18 miles northwest of Saigon today and eleven Americans were killed (Para. 3). Operation OAKLAND, a search-and-destroy operation, was initiated in coastal Quang Ngai Province today (Para. 4). There was very little change in the operational status of the major surface lines of communications (Para. 5). Weekly review of South Vietnam battle statistics (Para. 6).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam: Less than half of the striking construction workers returned to work while wage hike negotiations continued (Para. 1). The Buddhist moderates claim to have the support of the ten-man council of the Buddhist Institute in their campaign to reconcile their differences with the government [REDACTED]

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III. Military Developments in North Vietnam: US pilots report extensive damage to Hanoi and Haiphong POL storage depots (Para. 1). One US aircraft was downed in the raid and one North Vietnamese MIG was destroyed by US fighters (Para. 2). Initial North Vietnamese propaganda reaction called the attack a victory for Hanoi, claiming that seven US aircraft were shot down during the raid (Para. 3). Other bloc

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commentary thus far, has been routinely critical of the US action (Para. 4).

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Recent photography indicates that Hanoi probably intends to add a third rail to the line between Hanoi and Ping-hsiang thus allowing it to carry both meter and standard rolling stock (Paras. 8-10).

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V. Communist Political Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

ANNEX:

South Vietnam Battle Statistics 18-25 June

Total Personnel Losses

Cumulative US Combat Casualties

Total Friendly Forces Personnel Losses

South Vietnam Battle Statistics 18-25 June

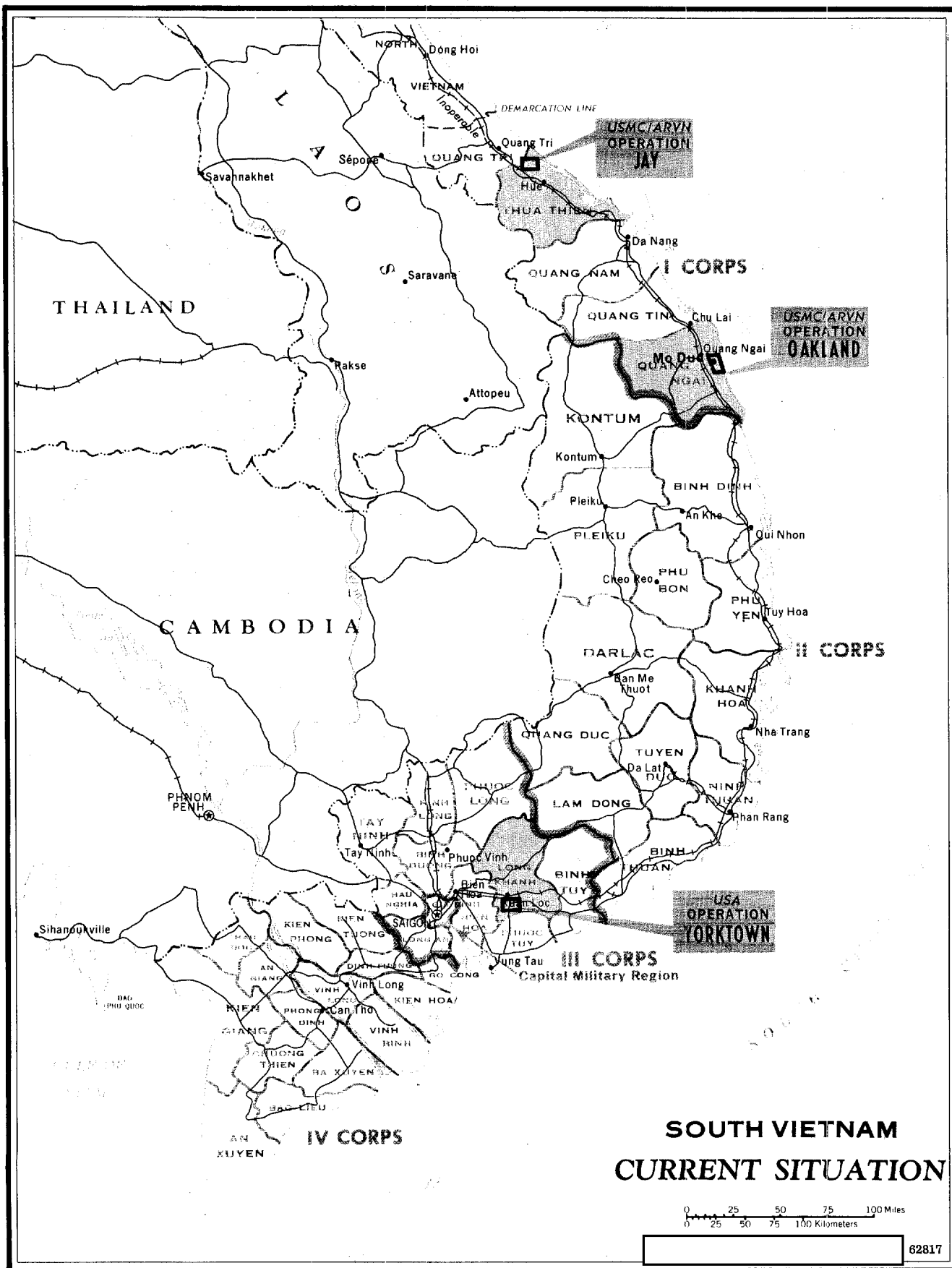
Viet Cong Incidents

Viet Cong Attacks

Weapons Losses--GVN/VC

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. A Viet Cong battalion--identified as the 802nd--ambushed a motor convoy of South Vietnamese Marines in Thua Thien Province today. The convoy was moving northward along Route 1 through the area where Operation JAY is being conducted. A US Marine company and three South Vietnamese battalions participating in the operation came to the assistance of the ambushed South Vietnamese Marines. In the ensuing battle, at a point on Route 1 about 17 miles northwest of Hue, 50 South Vietnamese were killed and 84 wounded. A total of 71 Viet Cong were killed, and five were captured and 25 weapons seized.

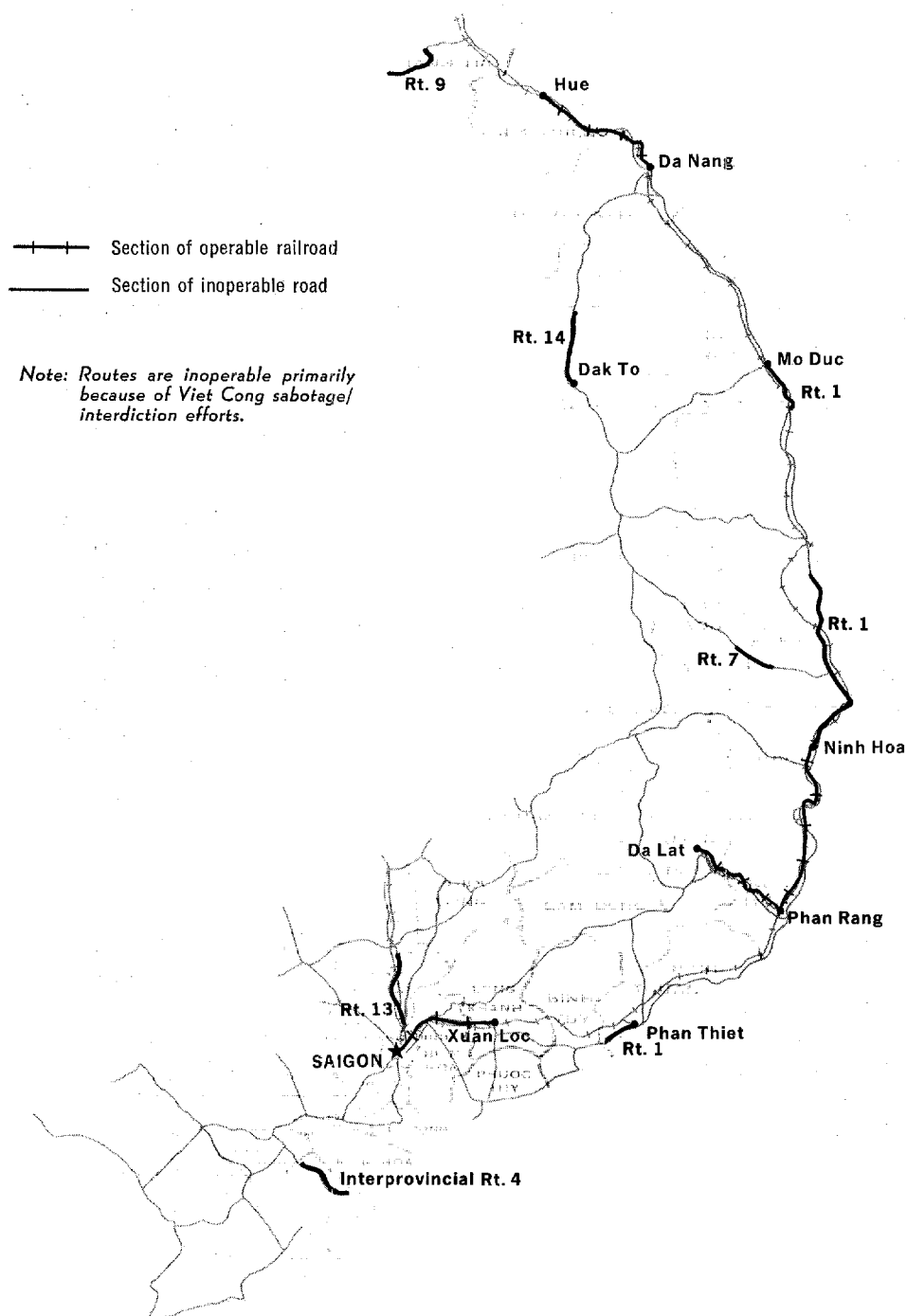
2. A company of the US 173rd Airborne Brigade participating in Operation YORKTOWN, a US search-and-destroy operation in southern Long Khanh Province, engaged an enemy force of about 50 to 100 men this morning. The Viet Cong used small arms, 50-cal. machine guns, and mortars during the five-hour engagement. Friendly artillery and air strikes supported the Americans until the Viet Cong withdrew. Ten Americans were killed and 38 wounded as opposed to only two Viet Cong killed in the action.

3. A patrol from the US 25th Infantry Division was overrun by a Communist force of unknown size while on a local operation 18 miles northwest of Saigon yesterday. Eleven US soldiers were killed. One American managed to escape and return to his unit. Two Viet Cong were reported killed. A reaction force has been deployed in response to the attack but has not made contact with the enemy.

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## CURRENT OPERATIONAL STATUS OF MAJOR TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND COASTAL RAILROAD



Information as of 25 June 1966

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4. US Marines and South Vietnamese Army units today initiated Operation OAKLAND, a search-and-destroy operation in the Mo Duc area of coastal Quang Ngai Province. Naval gunfire and air attacks were scheduled in the area prior to the sweep. The operation is expected to last three to four days.

Operational Status of Major Surface Lines of Communications

5. The operational status of South Vietnam's major highways declined slightly during the week of 18-25 June with the closure of a portion of Route 13 in Binh Duong Province, northeast of Saigon. No change was reported in the operational capability of the nation's coastal railway.

Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics

6. The week of 18-25 June compared with the previous week of 11-18 June:

I. Viet Cong Incidents

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Attacks</u>	<u>Regimental size</u>	<u>Battalion size</u>	<u>Company size</u>	<u>Terrorism</u>
11-18 June	18	0	3	1	570
18-25 June	17	0	2	2	614

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I. Viet Cong Incidents (continued)

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Sabotage</u>	<u>Propaganda</u>	<u>Anti-Aircraft</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
11-18 June	35	38	157	818
18-25 June	48	35	143	857

II. Casualties

	<u>VC/PAVN</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>11-18 June</u>	<u>18-25 June</u>	<u>11-18 June</u>	<u>18-25 June</u>
Killed	928	1,225	175	286
Wounded	---	---	400	620
Missing/Captured	<u>232</u>	<u>204</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>61</u>
TOTALS	1,160	1,429	612	967

	<u>US</u>		<u>FREE WORLD</u>	
	<u>11-18 June</u>	<u>18-25 June</u>	<u>11-18 June</u>	<u>18-25 June</u>
Killed	79	131	20	5
Wounded	567	755	19	13
Missing/Captured	<u>17</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	663	892	39	18

III. Weapons Captured

	<u>VC/PAVN</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>11-18 June</u>	<u>18-25 June</u>	<u>11-18 June</u>	<u>18-25 June</u>
Individual	185	2,429	164	239
Crew-served	<u>28</u>	<u>256</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>13</u>
TOTALS	213	2,685	169	252

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAMSome Construction Workers Return to Work

1. Less than half of the striking laborers working on Raymond-Morrison-Knudsen construction projects around Saigon returned to work on 29 June. Workers employed by other firms initially returned to work, but reportedly left their job sites later in the day as a result of disputes within the labor ranks rather than dissatisfaction over wages. The US Mission recommends a wage increase amounting to half of the original demands, which would result in an increase of between 10 and 15 percent.

Buddhist Moderates Reportedly Still Pressing for a Reconciliation with the GVN

2. There are conflicting press accounts on the current supremacy of the moderates versus the militants within the Buddhist Institute. According to one report, the ten-member governing council of the Buddhist Institute appears to be backing moderate Thich Tam Chau in his desire for a reconciliation with the Ky government. An unnamed Institute spokesman reportedly told newsmen that Chau was using the planned Buddhist boycott of the September elections as a tool with which to negotiate concessions from the government. Chau reportedly expects a formal agreement of all influential Buddhist venerables to reinforce his efforts toward a formal political truce with the GVN. The spokesman said that Tri Quang, still subsisting for the 22nd day on sugared liquids, would be forced to go along with decisions by the soft-line Institute Buddhists. The spokesman's comments to the press, however, probably reflect the Tam Chau conciliatory stand. It would seem likely that the Institute council members are still divided over the extent of Buddhist submission to the government.

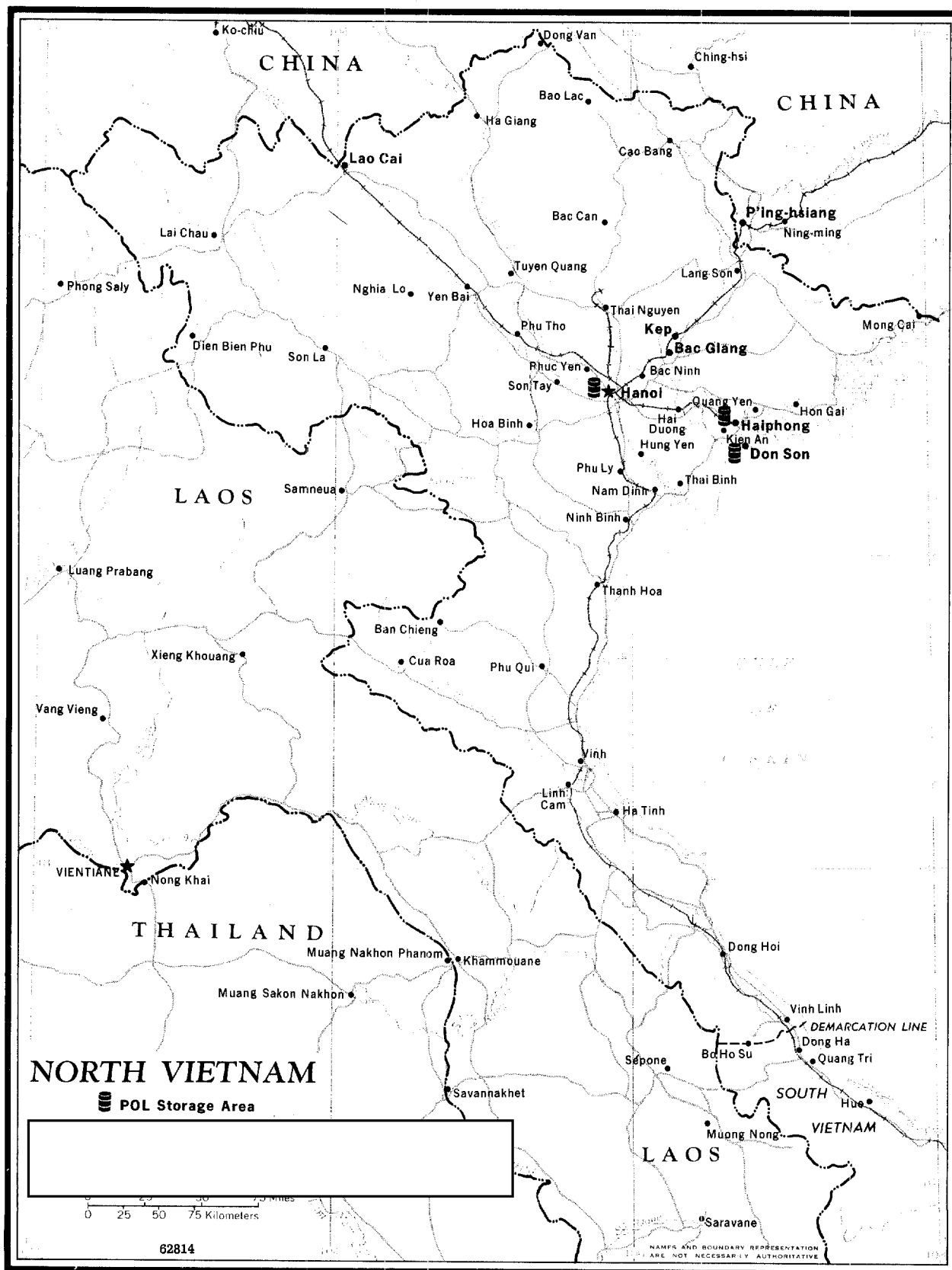
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III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

1. US Air Force and Navy aircraft conducted coordinated strikes against three major North Vietnamese POL storage facilities on 29 June. Pilots reported that heavy damage was inflicted on the major bulk storage installations at Hanoi and Haiphong and on the smaller installation at Do Son. No definitive assessment of damage could be made from initial photography of the strikes, however, because of heavy smoke and flames rising from the installations at Hanoi and Haiphong.

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These three installations comprise about 60 percent of North Vietnam's bulk petroleum storage capacity.

2. One US F-105 Thunderchief was lost to ground fire during the attack on the Hanoi facility. Three other F-105s were damaged by flak but returned safely to their base in Thailand. The air force strike group also encountered four DRV MIG-17 Fresco fighters about 20 miles northwest of Hanoi. One enemy MIG was destroyed and two F-105s were damaged in the ensuing engagement, but these F-105s also managed to return to their base.

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3. Initial North Vietnamese reaction to the 29 June US air strike against the Hanoi-Haiphong POL facilities has played down mention of the actual target of the raid stressing instead that the strike was an "extremely serious war escalation" directed against economic and populated areas on the outskirts of the two cities. Speaking at a special press conference on the raid, Colonel Ha Van Lau, head of the DRV Liaison Mission to the ICC echoed DRV press reports claiming that the raid had been in fact a victory for the North Vietnamese insofar as it resulted in the shooting down of seven US aircraft.

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To bolster this argument, the pilot of the one plane--an F-105 which was actually shot down, was produced at the press conference and allegedly made a statement of regret for attacking North Vietnam. Other Asian Communist reaction has thus far been limited to a Chinese rebroadcast of North Vietnamese statements.

4. Soviet and East European reaction to the raid has been predictably critical. Moscow commentaries have portrayed the strike as a continuation of the "criminal escalation of the air war" and--in routine terms--reiterated the support of the USSR and other Socialist states for the Vietnamese people.

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Rail Construction in North Vietnam

8. Analysis of recent photography indicates that North Vietnam probably intends to add a third rail south of Kep on the rail line between Hanoi and Ping-hsiang. Earlier photography had shown that a third rail, enabling the line to carry both meter- and standard-gauge rolling stock, is already being added north of Kep. It probably will extend as far as the current change-of-gauge point at Ping-hsiang.

9. In photography [redacted]

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[redacted] were noted along the rail line between Kep and Bac Giang--about eight nautical miles south of Kep--and a work train unloading ballast was observed about five miles south of Kep. The quantities observed [redacted]

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[redacted] gauge track--strongly suggest that the materials are to be used for an extension of the third rail, and not for maintenance and repair.

10. Addition of the third rail on the Hanoi to Ping-hsiang railroad--the major overland route for North Vietnamese imports from and through China--will significantly improve the capacity of the line by permitting the movement of standard-gauge rolling stock into North Vietnam without transloading at Ping-hsiang. How far south the third rail is planned is still unknown, but it seems likely that it will be extended into the vicinity of Hanoi.

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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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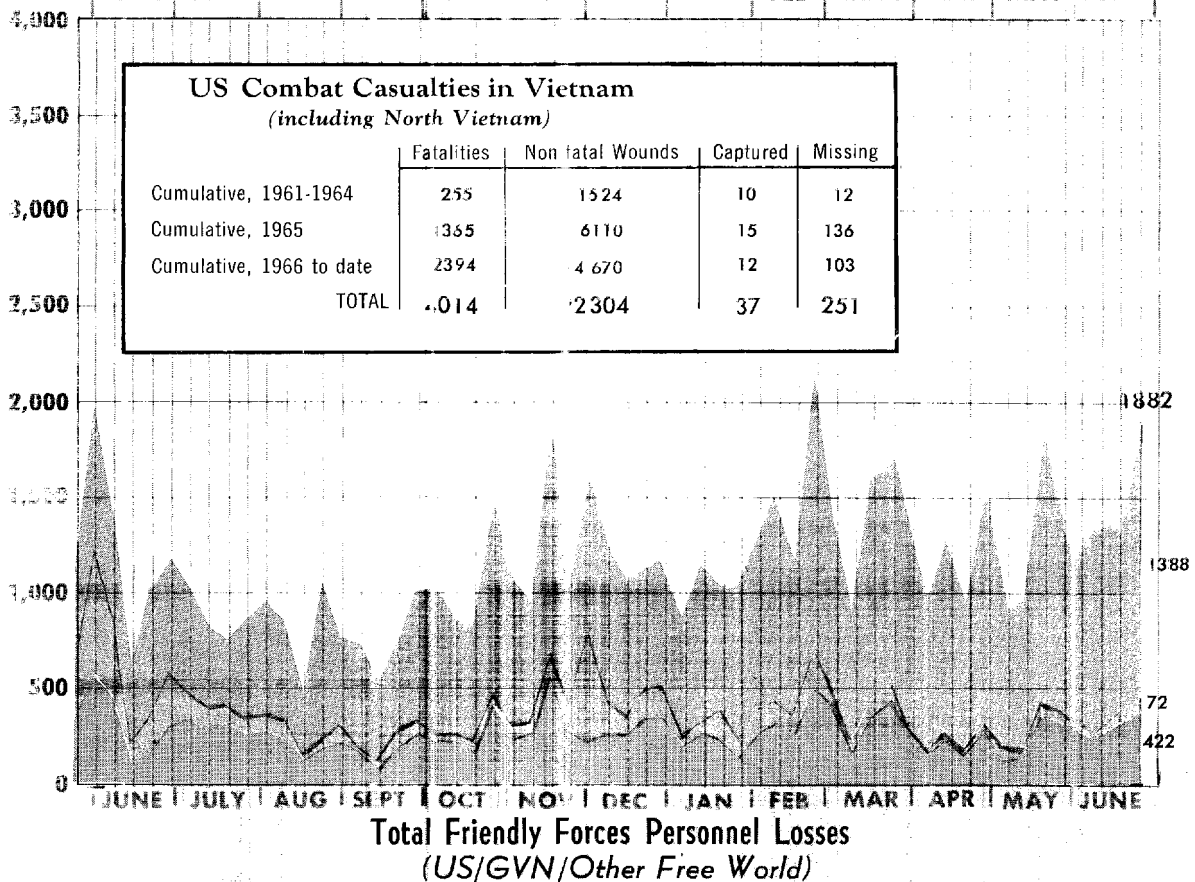
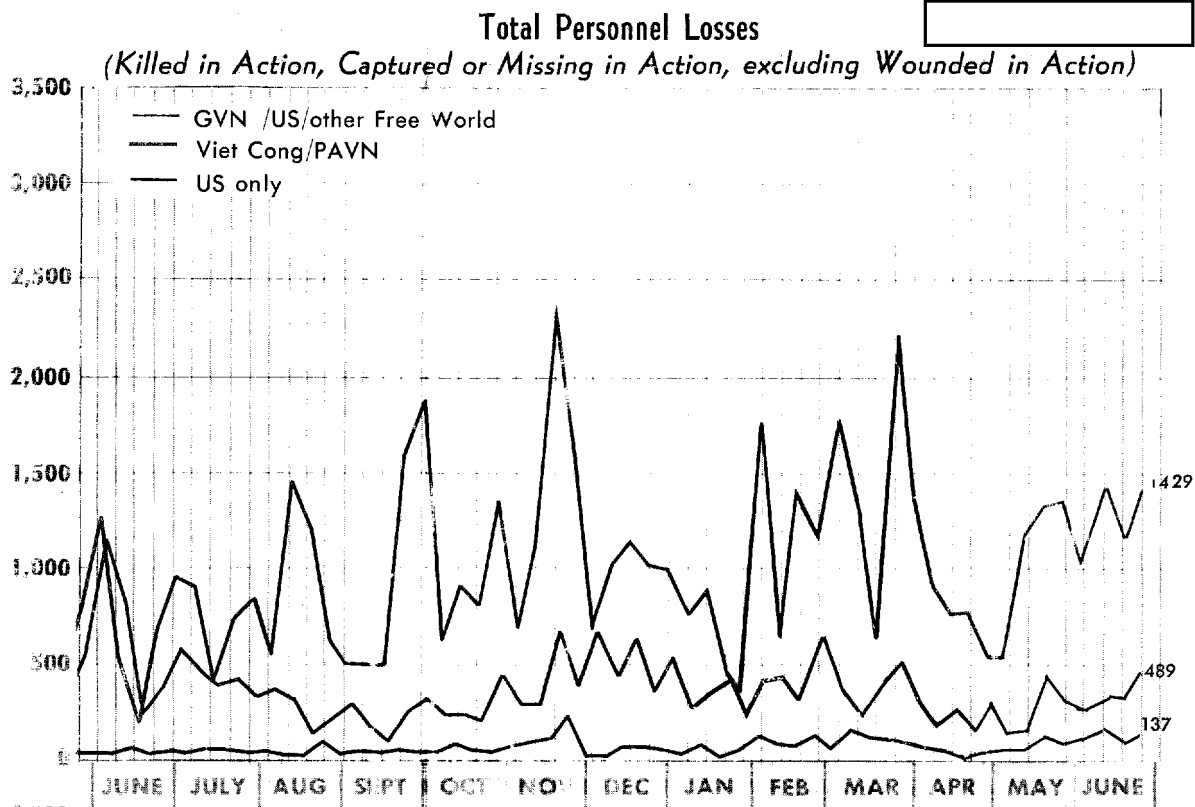
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# SOUTH VIETNAM BATTLE STATISTICS

WEEKLY REPORT 18-25 JUNE 1966

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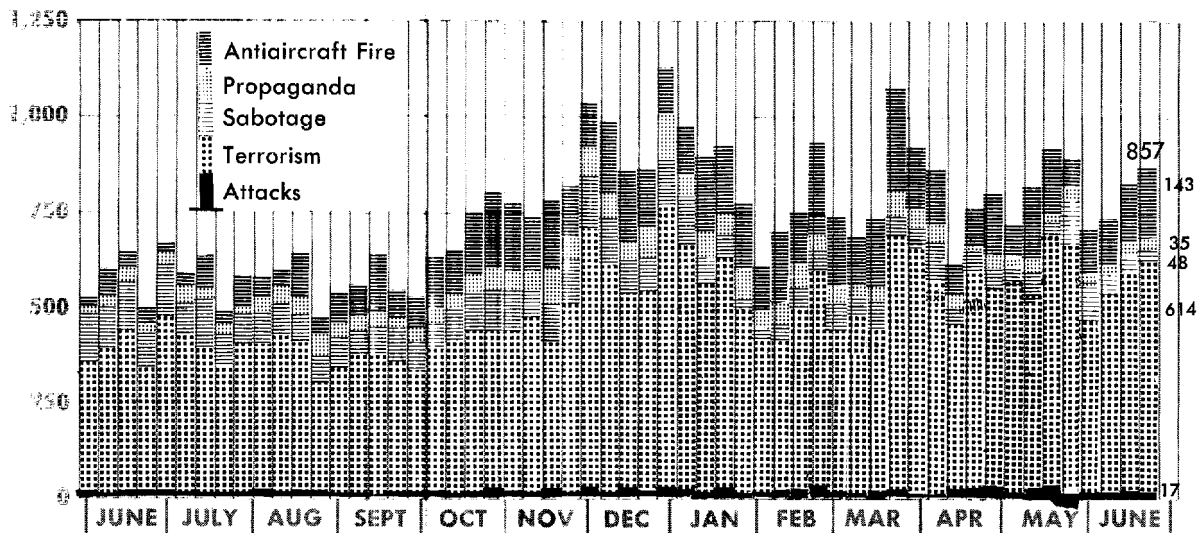
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# SOUTH VIETNAM BATTLE STATISTICS

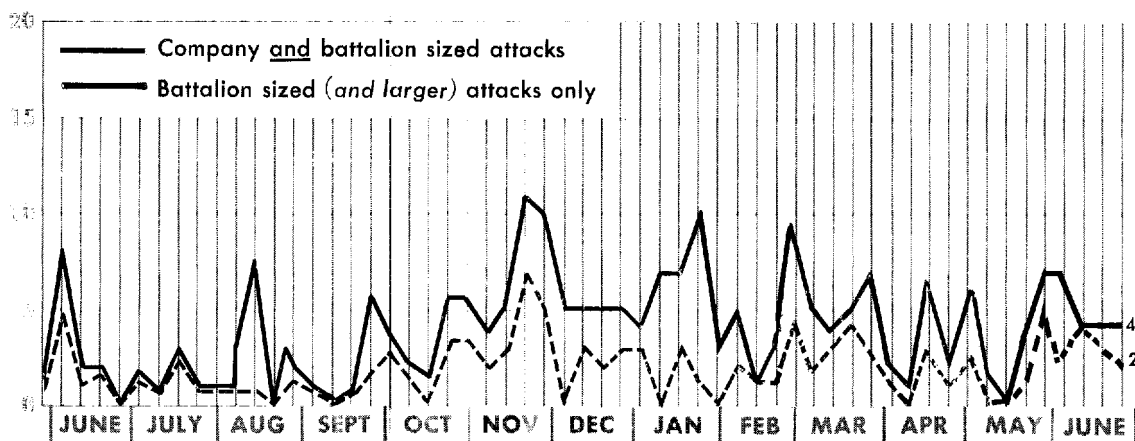
WEEKLY REPORT 18-25 JUNE 1966

## Viet Cong Incidents

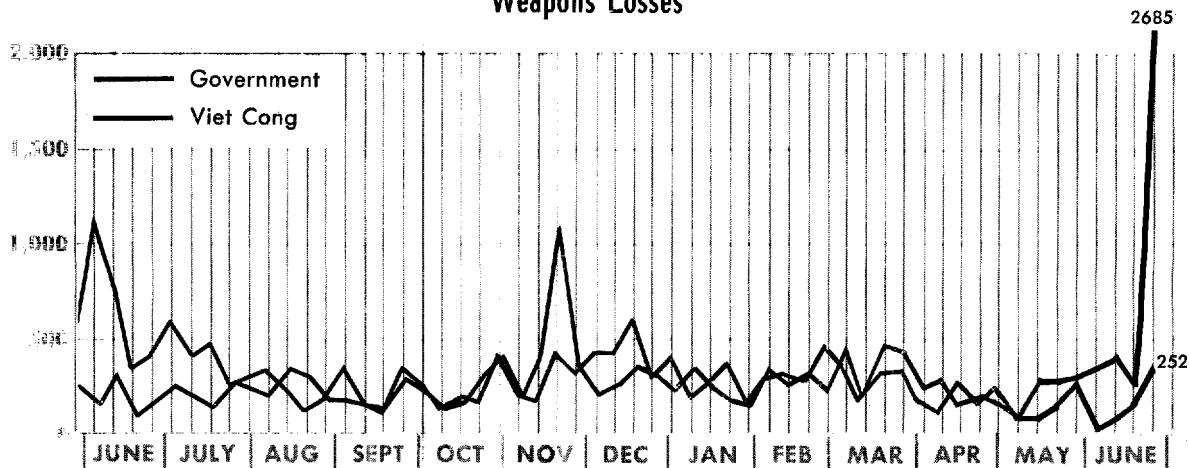
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## Viet Cong Attacks



## Weapons Losses



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